



A truck carrying Palestinian produce crosses from the occupied West Bank to Jordan. Despite the break in legal and administrative links with the West Bank, Jordan continues to allow Palestinian exports to

the Kingdom and allow the produce free access to the Jordanian market (J.T. file photo)

Steady steps to disengagement

AMMAN — Jordan, while remaining firmly committed to supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and to playing a key role in efforts for just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, is steadily pursuing implementation of measures designed to reinforce the Palestinian identity of the Israeli-occupied territories in the wake of the Kingdom's decision to sever formal ties with the West Bank.

Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, director-general of the newly-created Department of Palestinian Affairs — formerly the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs — explains the entire process in a nutshell: "Jordan remains committed to supporting the steadfastness of the people in the occupied territories (and) to an active role in the process that will eventually, we hope, lead to a comprehensive peace. So, under these two titles, we still continue to operate in the occupied territories."

While the department's activities essentially "remain the same that were taking place" before Jordan's July 31 announcement of severance of formal links with the West Bank, "it is now in a fully new direction...to give the disengagement its meaning," according to Qatanani.

In a wide-ranging one-hour interview with the Jordan Times earlier this week, Qatanani spoke at length about the functions of the department, which is now part of the Foreign Ministry, since July 31 and emphasised that these were all part of the ongoing process of "translating the disengagement into practice."

Qatanani reaffirmed the government's keen interest in upgrading the services offered to and the living conditions of

Palestinian refugees and displaced persons living in the East Bank. "The disengagement measure has changed nothing with regard to the refugees and displaced persons living here in Jordan," he said.

Jordan spends about \$12 million every year on the camps in addition to continued coordination with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) and donor countries on matters related to services offered to the camps, Qatanani said. "We help (the camp residents) establish certain projects that will make life easier for the people," he said. "We establish electricity network, water projects, clinics, schools, roads and so on...the kind of infrastructure that will provide services needed by the people in the camps."

Recalling a visit last month by Interior Minister Rajai Dajani to several camps Amman and his promise to upgrade services offered to them, Qatanani said: "Some camps have come very near to cities (in proximity). As a matter of fact, they have come within the city limits. The government has been all along interested in seeing to that the people who live in the camps get services that will allow them to have a decent living and not to have a great gap between the people in the camps and outside the camps in the surrounding areas."

"It is particularly so," he said, "in areas where the camps are very near to the cities."

Status of camps not changed

With the government's own \$12 million budget and working

closely with UNRWA and donor countries, "we are trying to improve these services as much as we can," he said.

But, he stressed, "this will not change the (status) of the camps, but will improve the services. This is what we have been doing and will continue to do so."

According to UNRWA statistics, the number of refugees and displaced persons living in the camps is about 250,000. But Qatanani said this could vary to up to 300,000 since "there are people who move in and out in terms of renting or leasing."

Asked what the drawing line was between "refugees" and "displaced persons," Qatanani said: "Refugees are those who left the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel in 1948 and these are registered with UNRWA as refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, in Gaza. Displaced persons are those who left the West Bank and Gaza Strip following the 1967 war."

Jordan erected six emergency camps in the East Bank for displaced persons but some of the displaced persons actually came from the Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "So they are both refugees and displaced persons...like people from 'Ain Sultan in Jericho or Jalazoun near Ramallah moving to Beqaa camp near Amman," Qatanani said.

However, there are no distinctions between "refugees" and "displaced persons" when it comes to their civil status in Jordan. "The displaced persons and refugees in the West Bank and the East Bank have been treated as Jordanians since 1950, and there was no difference," Qatanani said. "The only difference came after (Jordan's legal and adminis-

trative) disengagement (from the West Bank). Now, those who live in the West Bank get temporary two-year passports while those in the East Bank get regular five-year passports. The people who came from Gaza were different in the sense that they started getting temporary passports only recently. A resolution was passed in 1985 allowing them to get temporary passports. The disengagement measure has made the Gazans as well as the West Bankers eligible for temporary two-year passports."

The two-year passports are not different from the regular ones except for the validity period, Qatanani noted. The difference, he said, "is simply because the disengagement makes the people of the occupied territories Palestinian as of the day of the disengagement."

Continued issuance of passports is only one of many facilities that Jordan continues to extend to the Palestinian people despite the break with the West Bank. "We still welcome people from the occupied territories," Qatanani said. "They can visit (the

East Bank) and stay for one month. Those who need to stay more than one month — for education, medical treatment or humanitarian reasons — are allowed to stay on as their needs warrant."

Outlining further the work of the department, the director-general said: "We continue to issue the necessary documents for people in the occupied territories...death, birth and marriage certificates, land deeds, school certificates etc. We help them whenever possible...We still admit students from the occupied territories into our schools, colleges and universities."

"In effect, in many aspects, (the department's) activities remain pretty much the same...but with regard to the issue itself, the disengagement was intended to start with the pronouncement of the Palestinian identity and clarifying the matter of representation."

Imports from West Bank

Jordan continues to import agricultural and industrial products from the West Bank and extend them free access to the Jordanian market, Qatanani noted. This helps the people in the occupied territories in addition to meeting local demands, he said. The new element in the process, he pointed out, is the involvement of the Ministries of Industry and Trade, Supply, Finance and Customs, the Ministry of Agriculture and various other departments, organisations and institutions that are concerned with the import of products to decide on what kind of procedures are to be followed.

Qatanani said Jordan welcomes a recent Israeli consent to allow direct Palestinian exports to European markets. "We have always been trying, all along, to push this kind of (step)..."

We have been advising the people in the cooperative unions in the occupied territories to try hard for such an agreement."

He noted that the European Economic Community (EEC) had withheld approval of three

protocols with Israel because of the Zionist state's resistance to direct Palestinian exports to the EEC. The protocols were approved earlier this week after Israel undertook to allow direct access to EEC markets by Palestinian producers from the West Bank and Gaza.

Replying to a question, Qatanani said the authorities were strictly enforcing Jordan's ban on entry of any product with Israeli input, whether labour or material-wise. The authorities are in coordination with cooperative societies and unions in the West Bank and the benevolent society in Gaza to ensure the ban is not violated. In essence, every product that enters the East Bank from the other side of the river has to be accompanied by a certificate of origin issued by any of these societies or unions as the case may be.

Qatanani noted that origins were relatively easy to trace in the case of agricultural products — the bulk of Palestinian exports

to the East Bank. "They are planted in Palestinian lands by Palestinian farmers and are easy to trace," he said. But in the case of industrial products the inspection process is different. "When the final product has any Israeli input, we reject it," he said. "It will not be admitted."

The regulations are strictly followed, he said, to the extent that a Palestinian product packed in Israeli material will not be allowed into Jordan.

The main agricultural products that enter the East Bank from the West Bank are citrus, fruits, vegetables, water melons, olives and olive oil. The industrial product category includes stones, woodwork, soap and meat products. The department did not have specific figures on the actual value of imports from the occupied territories but in tonnage they amounted to 69,635 tonnes from the West Bank and 61,603 tonnes from the Gaza Strip in 1987.

These products enjoy free access to the Jordanian market and are treated at par with the Kingdom's produce, Qatanani said.

Vehicle licensing

In reply to a question on a recent measure concerning trucks entering from the West Bank, Qatanani said: "These trucks were Jordanian and now they are Palestinian. So their owners will have to change their licences into a temporary one (while entering Jordan). Again, the idea is part of translating the disengagement into practice."

He estimated that there were over 300 such vehicles, which carried Jordanian licences since 1967 and operated in the occupied territories with Israeli plates, as imposed on them by the occupation authorities. Whenever they crossed into the East Bank, they used the Jordanian plates until the new decision, announced earlier this month.

Replying to another question



Dr. Ahmad Qatanani

Following Jordan's announcement on July 31 of its legal and administrative disengagement from the Israeli-occupied West Bank, the government has adopted a series of measures aimed at translating the disengagement into practice. Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, director-general of the Department of Palestinian Affairs — the official directly in charge of implementing the steps — talks to Ghadeer Taher about the various steps and related procedures.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:30 Programme review
15:55 Children's programmes
16:00 News summary in Arabic
16:05 News in Arabic
16:10 Arabic series
16:15 Scientific programme
16:20 Local series
16:25 Programme review
16:30 News in Arabic
16:35 Arabic series
16:40 Monday Forum
16:45 Variety programme
16:50 News summary in Arabic
16:55 Variety programme (cont'd.)

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Consuete Pour Le peuple
17:30 Rue Cartou
17:35 Weekly Sport magazine
17:40 News in Arabic
17:45 Varieties
17:50 Ever Decreasing Circles
17:55 Enemy at the Door
18:00 News in English
18:05 Play: "The Book of Murder"

RADIO JORDAN

835 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
partly on 95.60 KHz. SW
Tel: 77111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Just a Minute
09:30 Good Vibrations
10:00 30 Minute Theatre
10:30 News Summary
10:35 Pop Session
11:00 News Summary
11:05 Pop Session Cont'd.
11:10 News Bulletin
11:15 Special Feature
11:20 Concert Hour
11:25 News Summary
11:30 Instruments
11:35 Old Favorites
11:40 Young Sound
11:45 Arab Scientists
11:50 News Summary
11:55 Sports Roundup
12:00 Music
12:05 News Desk
12:10 Date with a Star
12:15 Concert Hour
12:20 News Summary
12:25 Evening Show Cont'd.

22:00 News Summary
22:05 Evening Show Continued
22:10 News Summary
22:15 Evening Show Continued
22:20 Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1233 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Magdui days
06:45 Reflections 06:50 Waveguide
07:00 World News 07:00 Twenty-Four
Hour: News Summary 07:30 Nature
Notebook 07:45 Recording of the
Week 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 A Green
and Pleasant Land 08:30 World News
08:35 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
09:30 Latin Americans 10:00
World News 10:00 Reflections 10:15
Magdui Days 10:30 Anything Goes
11:00 World News 11:00 British Press
Review 11:15 Good Books 11:30
Financial News followed by Sports
Roundup 11:45 Peebles' Choice 12:00
News and Pleasant Land 12:30 The Village
Chart Show 13:00 World News 13:30
News About Britain 13:15 Tech Talk
13:30 The Ken Bruce Show 14:00
Radio Newsworld 14:15 Hancock's Half-
Hour 14:45 Sports Roundup 15:00
World News 15:00 24 Hours: News
Summary 15:30 Anything Goes 16:00
Outlook, opening with 5-minute News
16:45 A Choice of Verse 17:00 Radio
Newsworld 17:15 A Green and Pleasant
Land 17:45 English Songsmiths 18:00
World News 18:00 News About Britain
18:15 Americans in Europe 18:30
Lyrics and Lyrics 18:45 The World
Today 19:00 World News 19:00 Com-
mentary 19:15 New Music 19:45 Sports
Roundup 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 Out-
look, opening with 5-minute News
21:30 The Ken Bruce Show 21:30
Radio Newsworld 21:45 Hancock's Half-
Hour 22:00 World News 22:00 Twenty-
Four: News Summary 22:30 Sports
International 23:00 News Summary
followed by Network U.K. 23:15 Turn-
ing Point 23:30 The Village Chart
Show 24:00 World News 06:00 The
World Today 06:30 Financial News
06:40 Reflections 06:45 Sports Round-
up 07:00 World News 07:00 Commen-
tary 07:15 Mastering Photography
07:30 Multitrack 1: Top 20

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1280 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740,
11925 and 15210 Hz

06:00 News 06:10 Newslines 06:30 VOA
Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newslines
07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10
Newslines 08:30 Music USA 17:00
News 17:10 Focus 17:30 Special En-
glish News & Features 18:00 News
18:10 Newslines 18:30 Magazine Show
19:00 News 19:10 Focus 19:30 Special
English News & Features 20:00 News
20:10 Newslines America 20:30 Music
USA 21:00 News & Editorial 21:15
Music USA Jazz 22:00 News 22:10
World Report

CULTURAL CENTRES & LIBRARIES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267
American Centre .. 643771
American Cultural Library .. 641520
British Council .. 6361478
French Cultural Centre .. 637009
Goethe Institute .. 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 64203
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777
Haya Arts Centre .. 661916
Husseini Youth City .. 661793
Y.W.C.A. .. 641793
Amman Municipal Library .. 637111
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843535
Abdul Hamid Shoman
Foundation .. 672541
Amman Municipal Library .. 637111

MUSEUMS

Children's Heritage and Science
Museum: Fun and knowledge for all
ages, plus a small planetarium at the
Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00
a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00
p.m. Closed on Friday.
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and cos-
tumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics
from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th
centuries). The Roman Theatre, Am-
man. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Year-round. Tel. 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has
an excellent collection of the anti-
quities of Jordan, Jabal Al Qal'a
(Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00
a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official
holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.).
Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a
collection of paintings, ceramics, and
sculptures by contemporary Islamic
artists from most of the Muslim coun-

SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings
every first and third Wednesday at the
Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings ev-
ery second and fourth Wednesday at
the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings
every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn,
1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday
at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00
p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Am-
man, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261

PRAYER TIMES

04:20 Fair
05:37 (Sunrise) Duka
11:21 Dhuhur
14:34 Kuwara
17:45 Maghreb
18:22 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic)
Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman
Catholic) Jabal Luwibdeh, Tel.
637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic)
Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757 Sunday
English mass (summer time 6 p.m.,
winter time 5 p.m.).
Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic).
Jabal Luwibdeh, mass in Italian lan-
guage, meet every Saturday at 5:30

p.m. Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation (Greek
Orthodox) Abadi, Tel. 6241.
Anglican Church (Church of the Re-
deemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383,
chaplain's residence tel. 601359.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh,
Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashraf-
ieh, Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Ortho-
dox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.
Philadelphia Rotary Club (Inter-
denominational): meets at Southern
Baptist Church in Shmeisani, Tel.
665326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church
of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Ara-
bic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N.
Smir 811295.
Rabbi's Congregation (meets at the
Good Shepherd's Church) Interdeno-
minational-cum-ecumenical English Ser-
vice: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 822605, Rev.
Vell.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints (Mormons) Tel. 815817,
821264

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal
Jordanian (RJ) information depart-
ment at the Queen Alia International
Airport Tel. (08) 52200-5, where it
should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

09:00 Aqaba (RJ)
09:10 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:40 Ankara (TK)
09:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:45 Sana'a, Jeddah (RJ)
10:15 Larnaca (RJ)

16:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
18:15 Bangkok (RJ)
01:10 Baghdad (RJ)
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)
09:20 Sana'a (LH)
12:20 Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
12:20 Cairo (MS)
13:00 Istanbul, Ankara (TC)
13:35 Kuwait (KU)
19:15 Beirut (ME)
20:55 Paris (AF)

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:45 Aqaba (RJ)
11:30 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
11:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles
(RJ)
12:00 Montreal, New York (RJ)
12:30 Cairo (RJ)
12:45 Bucharest (RJ)
19:40 Kuwait (RJ)
19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:10 Cairo (RJ)
20:15 Jeddah (RJ)
20:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
20:50 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)
05:30 Cairo, London (BA)
08:15 Beirut (ME)
18:15 Frankfurt (LH)
13:05 Cairo (MS)
13:30 Bahrain (GF)
14:00 Ankara (TK)
14:35 Kuwait (KU)
21:55 Baghdad (AF)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.

Clouds will appear at different alti-
tudes, with chances for scattered show-
ers at times. Visibility in the desert
areas will be poor due to duststorms.
Southeasterly winds will become
northwesterly moderate, in Aqaba, it

will be hazy and partly cloudy with
chances for thundershowers. Winds
will be northerly moderate to fresh and
seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 16 / 26
Aqaba 19 / 32
Deserts 17 / 28
Jordan Valley 18 / 33

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-
man 26, Aqaba 32. Humidity readings:
Amman 33 per cent, Aqaba 33 per
cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Issa Haddad 897007
Dr. Mohammad Azam 818911
Dr. Khaled Haddad 793522
Dr. Mohammad Suway 732056
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

TAXIS:
Sa'id taxi 889434
Badawi taxi 792511
Aqabawi taxi 892930
Kayali taxi 786300
Iyad taxi 740317
Mu'in taxi 895364

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Omani (—)
Al Shanaa pharmacy 985236

ZARQA:
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 639141
Public Security Directorate 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 12
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 17
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power
Company 648411, 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642411
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664174
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abadi 771013
Al-Ahli, Abadi 771126
Italian, Al-Muasher 664166
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 771013
Army, Marka 891611/50
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Arab Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

GENERAL

Ministry of Information 641467
Ministry of the Interior 663111
Ministry of Tourism 642311
Driving Licences Dept. 892283
Foreigners and Frontiers Dept. 872108
Meteorological Dept. 892408
Public Security Headquarters 630321
Corporation 638301

King Hussein receives credentials of envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received the credentials of new ambassadors to Jordan. They were Mubab Muqbel of Egypt, Dr. Andor Egyed of Hungary, John Clark of New Zealand, Qadi Gholam of Bangladesh and Miguel Duen of Bolivia.

The presentation ceremonies were held at the Royal Court in the presence of Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Foreign Minister Taber Al Masri.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CONDOLENCES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday delegated his advisor Mohammad Odeh to convey condolences to the Hananah family over the death of Marwan Mohammad, wife of Ali Saleh Hananah (Petra).

SHARIF ZAID IN TURKEY: Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker left for Turkey Saturday at the head of a Jordanian military delegation on a several day official visit, during which he will meet with senior Turkish officials and visit a number of military sites (Petra).

SUDAN APPRECIATES HELP: Assistant Director of Amman Health Department Ali Al Muheisen, who also headed the Jordanian medical team to Sudan during the last two months said that the Sudanese people highly appreciate the efforts made by Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein and the continuous support of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, to help Sudan overcome its current difficulties (Petra).

HAI HASSAN MEETS IRAQI AIDE: Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan met in his office Sunday with Iraqi Ministry of Trade Undersecretary Khaled Samarra'i, during which he approved minutes of a three-day meeting by the Iraqi official with his Jordanian counterpart covering topics of cooperation between Iraq and Jordan in transport (Petra).

TAL RETIRED: Ministry of Higher Education's Secretary General Ahmad Tal has been retired in accordance with a decision by the council of ministers. Tal is to be succeeded by Dr. Ahmad Al Bashairah who had served as secretary general of the Ministry of Education (Petra).

CAMPAIN FOR FAO RECONSTRUCTION: A campaign has started in Aqaba to raise contributions for the reconstruction of the Iraqi port of Fao which was liberated by Iraqi forces from Iranian occupation last April. Donors who were reported to have visited the contribution centre included Jordanians, Iraqis and nationals of other Arab countries (Petra).

SQOUR LEAVES FOR SWEDEN: Ministry of Social Development's Secretary General Mohammad Sqour left Sunday for Stockholm on an official visit to Sweden at the invitation of his Swedish counterpart Sture Korpi. He is expected to hold talks with health and social affairs officials and tour Swedish organisations that care for the handicapped, child-care centres and mentally retarded institutions (Petra).

DRUG TRAFFICKER JAILED: The military governor has endorsed the military court's verdict sentencing Sa'di Salah Hassan to two years imprisonment and a fine of JD 1,500, after finding him guilty of trafficking hashish (Petra).

Scholar to deliver lecture on Al Aqsa Mosque

AMMAN (J.T.) — Head of the Middle East section of the School of Oriental and African Studies at London University, Geza Feheri, today delivers a lecture entitled "Al Aqsa Mosque mihrab" (prayer niche) at the Engineering Faculty auditorium of the University of Jordan.

Dr. Feheri is in Amman to take part in the three-day international symposium on Islamic art, which will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The symposium will be chaired by Princess Wijdan Ali, who is the head of the Royal Society of Fine Arts.

Jordan, Syria discuss production of insecticides

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of the Syrian and Jordanian Ministries of Industry and Trade and a number of pan-Arab companies opened a meeting here Sunday to discuss the implementation of a project to produce insecticides which has been entrusted to the Jordan-Syrian Industry Company.

The delegates will discuss updating the project's feasibility study, steps to be taken to start carrying out the project and the financial contributions.

Addressing the first session of the two-day meeting was Syrian Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Industry Ahmad Al Hamash who said that the projected insecticide plant was a fruit of Syrian-Jordanian cooperation in industrial fields, benefiting the whole Arab nation.

Insecticides are essential elements for agricultural development and the increase of output, he added.

The Jordan-Syrian Industry Company was established in 1975 by the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee which defined the company's objectives, the different projects that it should carry out in the two countries and the marketing of its products in Jordan, Syria and other Arab countries.

Two countries pledged to offer the Amman-based company all the essential incentives, exemptions and privileges to enable it to succeed.

The joint company has been entrusted with setting up plants to produce white cement, insecticides, ready-made clothes and ball bearings.

Seminar to discuss ways to reduce building costs

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan today opens a three-day seminar on reducing house construction costs, which has been organised by the Housing Corporation in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

On the eve of the meetings, Corporation Director General Yousef Hiyasat said that the participants will discuss working papers focusing on land, building materials, financing, and social and economic studies related to construction.

Hiyasat said that the Kingdom does not have a housing problem but there is a need to build homes in view of natural growth, and the housing corporation is there to facilitate the building of homes and housing units.

Surveys indicated that 85 per cent of the total need of housing is being supplied by the private sector in the Kingdom and that two per cent is being shouldered by a number of real estate organisations, Hiyasat noted.

He said that there is a need to support the private sector's role in housing, and the coming stage will allocate witness more care to limited income families.

Referring to the Abu Nuseir housing estate, Hiyasat said that the second stage of that project will be sold in plots of land.

The seminar will tackle building materials in addition to the prospect of executing major housing projects and unifying the different parties involved in the housing sector.

Jordan, Sudan sign memo of cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Sudan Sunday signed a memorandum of understanding paving the way for further cooperation and coordination between them in planning and housing affairs.

The memorandum provides for the entry and exit of equipment and machinery and expertise from and into either country, the introduction of channels of communication to ensure speedy exchanges of information related to tenders and construction projects to be carried out in the two countries by their respective Ministries of Public Works, and allowing construction sectors from Sudan and Jordan to bid for projects in either country.

The memorandum also encourages cooperation between Sudanese and Jordanian professional unions and the formation of joint companies to carry out projects.

The memorandum referred to the prospect of Sudan importing Jordanian cement and allowing Jordanian trucks to carry the cement via Port Sudan to different destinations inside the country, in accordance with an agreement that would be signed at a later date.

The memorandum also included a request by Sudan for training Sudanese personnel in Jordan, and agreement was reached on a visit to Sudan by a team from the Ministry of Public Works and Housing and the Engineers and Contractors Associations to explore Sudan's requirements of construction projects.

The memorandum was signed by Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh and visiting Sudanese Minister of Public Works and Construction Planning Othman Sharif.

The Sudanese minister who has now left for home at the end of his visit to Jordan, had met Zawaideh earlier and was briefed on the function of the different departments of the Ministry of Public Works.

Jabr receives Sudanese minister

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al Jabr Sunday reviewed with the visiting Sudanese minister Jordan's experience in the field of local administration and the duties performed by the ministry and the various local councils.

Aga Khan to support training and research at University of Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — President of the University of Jordan Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali received a letter from His Highness Aga Khan informing him that the board of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) has approved, in its meeting held on Sept. 23, 1988, to support the Department of Architecture and the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at the University of Jordan in its initiative to strengthen the department's capacity to engage in graduate-level training and research.

To this effect, the AKTC will provide a grant specifically to assist the department to establish a new area of study in the field of advanced architectural theory and design through the recruitment and funding of an Aga Khan Visiting Professor at the University of Jordan.

It is worth mentioning that this assistance is the product of a series of meetings held between delegates representing the AKTC and faculty members from the Department of Architecture.

In his letter, His Highness lauded the advanced standard which the University of Jordan has achieved in the field of architectural and technological studies.

The university's commitment to architectural education, His Highness added, the abilities of its teaching personnel and its openness to international collaboration, are all distinguished merits which make the University of Jordan a leading regional resource centre in the Middle East, capable of rendering effective architectural services in the region.



Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Sunday receives a two-member Syrian delegation and a regional representative of the World Health Organisation in Amman.

Hamzeh, Syrian health team discuss cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-member Syrian health delegation met here Sunday with Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh in the presence of a regional representative of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Jordan and Syria.

They discussed cooperation in health affairs and Jordan's primary health care programmes that are designed to meet WHO's target of providing health services for all citizens by the year 2000.

Preventive medicine and curative medicine in Jordan have both been embodied in the concept of primary health care which was initiated by the WHO in 1978, the health minister explained at the meeting.

He said that primary health care services are providing 95 per cent of the required services for citizens at the comprehensive health centres, a process which has relieved hospitals of heavy burdens.

"To carry out the primary health care programme the ministry has distributed 2.6 million medical cards entitling citizens to medical treatment at the health centres in urban and rural regions but allowing them this treatment and medicine only from one source, thus cutting down on one wastage of medical supplies," the minister pointed out.

Hamzeh briefed the Syrian delegation on decentralisation efforts, enabling the 15 departments of health around the country to shoulder more responsibility.

Arab women's conference opens in Cairo

Princess Basma: Development must include rural women too

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan believes in an active role for women in developing the society's potential and in women's contributions to stability within the Jordanian family, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma said here Sunday.

"Training programmes should be introduced to help spread awareness among women and give them impetus to carrying out their duty towards their families and the nation at large," Princess Basma said in an address to a conference on the role of women in Arab countries development, organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Referring to the activities of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF), Princess Basma said that they included the establishment of integrated community centres in rural as well as urban regions of the Kingdom, allowing women an access to meaningful

work benefitting their community.

Princess Basma informed the meeting that another meeting in Amman, two days ago, had established a pan-Arab Women's Scientific Council which, she said, would cater for Arab women's activities vis-a-vis development.

The Princess was elected the council's president at the conclusion of the council's two-day meeting in Amman on Friday.

A final statement said that the council will advocate women's

role in community development and enhance female leadership in dealing with national issues.

Princess Basma said that membership to the council is now open for all men and women enabling them to contribute to the fulfilment of its goals and objectives.

Dr. Mohammad Abdullah Nour, the UNDP Regional Director, outlined the aims of the conference which will mainly focus on how the UNDP can help individual Arab countries in executing development programmes.

Candidates posture for Jewish lobby — U.S. academic

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In the midst of the American presidential campaign, one of the most prominent issues on which both candidates agree on, is their continued moral, financial and political support for Israel. But a senior member of several Democratic presidential campaigns, Dr. Elaine Karmark, pointed out that the candidates "sound" more pro-Israel than they really are.

"Every four years come April the candidates bring up moving the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem," said Karmark who is also a professor of political science at Bryn Mawr.

During a working lunch with journalists arranged by the American Centre on Saturday she noted that the high concentration of Jews in specific cities in the U.S. has led to candidates' rhetoric on Israel, in an attempt to capture the Jewish vote.

She observed that during the primaries in places like Ohio, pro-Israeli support is rarely voiced by the candidates. "But, when primaries are held in April in New York, where 40 per cent of the population is Jewish, then you will hear the candidates speaking out on moving the embassy."

American policy, however, is to keep the embassy in Tel Aviv. "Actually, no one, not even American Jews expect the embassy to be moved. It is a symbolic test for American Jews to see if the candidate is pro-Israel," Karmark said.

In addition to the candidates' desire to secure the Jewish votes in major American cities, Karmark noted three factors which "bond" the presidential candidates' support for Israel.

The first two are the moral and cultural bonds, forged by the holocaust, and the friendships nurtured between American and Jews living in the U.S.; and from the similarities between the American and Israeli political process "both being democratic and having an open press."

The third is a strategic bond, "the bond American Jews prefer to speak about," said Karmark. According to her, the reason American Jews stress the strategic alliance between the two countries, "is that moral bonds fade as memories of the holocaust fade."

The well organised and powerful

Israeli lobby plays an additional and a major role in shaping American public opinion. The lobby, which supports mainly U.S. Congressmen and Senators, "is so important since the media's preceptions often comes from Senators," explained Karmark.

She added that although Arab Americans' voice is increasingly being heard in domestic politics, the Arab-American lobby does not have the same power and influence as the American Jewish lobby. "We have had a one-sided story and we do not feel that we have anything in common with the Arabs."

Although the intifada in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has changed the attitude of some Americans including American Jews, who have spoken out strongly against the Israeli practices in the occupied territories, the change is not significant

enough to have a major impact on the whole election process, she said.

Moreover, world affairs and politics are not important to most Americans, Karmark said, explaining that the U.S. being surrounded by two oceans, Canada and Mexico, allows Americans to live without the possibility of an impending war. According to Karmark, 50 per cent of all Americans eligible to vote, will not do so this November.

Karmark will be visiting Jerusalem, Riyadh and Jeddah to present lectures on the American electoral process. She delivered her speech at the American Centre in Amman on Saturday. "I believe that if people in this part of the world understand the process of elections in the U.S. then they could understand the candidates' preoccupation with Israel," she said.

Experts uncover remains of Roman, Ottoman periods at Khirbet Al Faris

AMMAN (J.T.) — Excavation and survey was carried out by a British team sponsored by the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History (BIAAH) and Newcastle University at Khirbet Al Faris, near Al Qasr, for five weeks during March/April 1988.

Intensive shoring of the site produced ceramic evidence for occupation within the survey area from the late Iron Age to the late

Ottoman period, and architectural remains from the early Roman and Ottoman periods.

Three small trenches were excavated and a machine trench was "cleaned-up". The results from these preliminary excavations produced evidence for domestic occupation in the Ottoman period in all three trenches and ninth-twelfth century occupation in a re-used vaulted structure that seems to have been originally of

early Roman date.

The ceramic assemblage from the excavated areas and the survey will be useful in both defining inter-site shifts through time and in elucidating the pottery typology for this area which, particularly in the Islamic periods, has been previously derived from survey material.

It is planned to continue excavation on a larger scale next year. March/April 1989.

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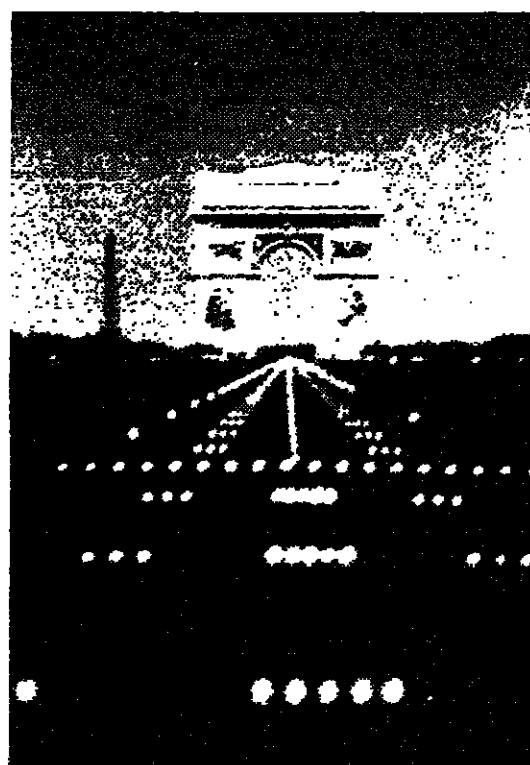
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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. The readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition: Drawings and watercolours of German romanticism, at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ Soviet book exhibition, at Plaza Hotel.
- ★ Book exhibition at the Khansa' Secondary School in Madaba.
- ★ An art exhibition by Isam Salameh, at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Photo exhibition at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ Dr. Jeza Fehervari gives a lecture in Arabic on "Al Aqsa Mosque mihrab," at the Engineering Faculty auditorium of the University of Jordan — 11:00 a.m.

FILM

- ★ French film "Max Mon Amour" subtitled in Arabic, at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- ★ A feature film entitled "Little Lord Fauntleroy," at the British Council — 5:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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The voice from within

ACCORDING to recent opinion polls taken in Israel, Israeli Arabs will cast more votes during the upcoming Israeli elections in November than ever. It was projected by these polls that the 600,000-strong Arab minority in Israel would elect nine members of the 120-member Israeli Knesset thus posing a real threat to any eventual formation of government in Israel in the wake of the elections.

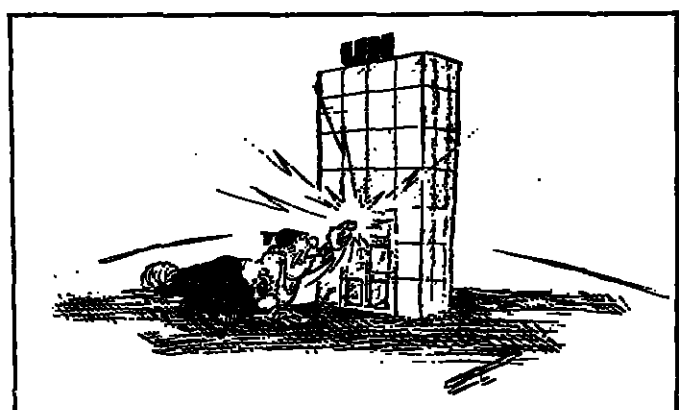
Clearly the Palestinian uprising has generated more Arab interest and involvement in Israeli politics than ever and awakened their sense of Palestinian nationalism and solidarity with their compatriots in the occupied territories. What is even more important is the fact that Israeli Arab political prowess is no longer dispersed and unorganised. It took a Palestinian resurrection to shake the Israeli Arabs from their political lethargy and indifference. And it has given the Israeli Arabs a new avenue and dimension hitherto unexplored fully to lend supportive hand to the resolution of the Palestinian problem.

What remains is to gauge accurately the effect of Israeli Arabs' involvement in Israeli elections on the outcome of the November elections while we do not detect a marked difference thus far between the Likud and Labour parties on the fundamentals of the Palestinian conflict, the proven political muscle of the Israeli Arabs must be exploited now to extricate sound political platforms from the competing Israeli political parties on the Palestinian case and to cast their votes accordingly.

The nearly eight per cent control over the Israeli parliament's seats is a formidable political force with which much meaningful negotiations can be initiated from now until November.

The Israeli Arab leaders are certainly better placed to judge this political game than Arabs elsewhere. We have faith in their political wisdom and their ability to play their political cards shrewdly and wisely. None of us would want to see an eventual Israeli government which is controlled by forces hostile to reason and common sense. That is why the stakes for the Israeli Arab voters are high and the paradoxes numerous and dangerous.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS



TWO of the Jordanian Arabic dailies Sunday tackled the question of Lebanon in the light of a looming danger represented in the end-of-mandate of parliament speaker Hussein Al Hussein. If Lebanon's parliament fails to elect a new speaker, said Al Ra'i daily, then further complications will emerge and a solution for the presidential crisis will be more remote than ever. The Lebanese people realise more than others the grave danger awaiting them if political confusion is allowed to continue because it might lead to a de facto partition of Lebanon, the paper added. It said such partition is of serious consequences to the Arabs since it serves Israel's strategic objectives and renders the Arab countries more vulnerable to similar patterns of disintegration. It is a real test not only for the Lebanese but also for all Arabs who do not wish to see their nation rendered apart, the paper noted.

For its part, Al Dustour daily welcomed the idea of a parliament session in Lebanon which it said could find a successor to Hussein and avoid a constitutional vacuum. The coming meeting represents a real test to the Lebanese and their will and desire for peace, the paper noted. It said that the meeting is bound to contribute to the current efforts to save Lebanon from partition and further divisions and disintegration. The Arab masses, said the paper, will be watching Tuesday's meeting of parliament in Beirut to see its results, hoping that the deputies will finally agree on the first steps towards salvation.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on the council of minister's guidelines to government departments designed to gradually reduce the budget deficit. These guidelines are bound to help the Kingdom avoid excessive payment for unnecessary imported products with hard currency and enable it to increase production and improve services, the paper noted. It said that the cabinet's instructions are clearly intended to boost the national industry, but at the same time to provide protection for basic food supplies benefiting low-income families. The guidelines it said bear clear indication that the government is concerned to honour its commitments and pay its foreign debts and services on these debts.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARY

Yes for austerity

AL DUSTOUR's economic columnist Sunday calls on Jordan to adopt austerity measures which means reducing its imports of unnecessary goods and rationalising spending. Abdullah Al Maliki says prices in Jordan are going up noticeably and perhaps housewives and retail merchants are more informed about this situation since they conduct a day-to-day business with various products. The continuous rise in prices will eventually lead to a rise in inflation that could reach ten or 15 per cent, and this will severely affect the unemployed among Jordanians, the columnist points out. He says the rise in prices could be due to a number of reasons including the rate of exchange of the Jordanian dinar, but what is important is to follow the example of other developing nations which opted for austerity measures to deal with similar situations.

Soviet-Israeli rapprochement

By Waleed Sadi

THERE is a noticeable flurry of political activity going on now between Israel and the Warsaw Pact countries. At first glance this development may look puzzling or surprising to unsuspecting Arab peoples. After all, the raison d'être for the severance of diplomatic and political relations between the socialist countries and Israel, namely, the Israeli-Arab war of 1967 and its consequences, is still there hovering over our heads. Many Arabs may feel cheated or even stabbed in the back to watch the beginning of the process of normalisation of relations between Tel Aviv and the capitals of the Eastern Bloc before Israel is made to end its occupation of Arab territories.

Surprisingly, however, Arab anxiety, if any, over the warming up of relations between Israel and the European communist countries is remarkably staid and muted. It seems that the Arab peoples have become callous to tragedies and misfortunes of every kind. In fact, Arab contemporary and post-Islamic golden age history is but a series of bad news with very few glorious feats to record in its annals. To compound the bleak picture in the Arab countries even more, not even massacres on the scale of Sabra and Shatila had succeeded in igniting the Arab national indignation.

Arabs everywhere appear to be in a state of suspended animation with indifference and fatalism reigning supreme. That is why the irreversible Soviet rapprochement with Israel goes by without causing as much as a wink in the drowsy Arab eyes or a ripple in the Arab capitals.

But this is not the whole story. New giant events and steps have overtaken and superseded the old ones on the international arena.

Specifically speaking, with the introduction of the Gorbachevian revolution to the Soviet and international arenas, the world has become the spectator of an entirely new global power game with far reaching direct and side effects. To be sure, this updated Russian Revolution has brought forth a novel international code of conduct on the political, economic and military levels. New considerations and premises were introduced by this reformist Soviet movement which have preempted old and archaic ones.

Caught in the web of this evolving entente between the East and West are of course the Arab countries and their national interests as perceived by the Arab peoples and their governments. With Moscow and its allies having a fixation on unleashing the dynamics of modernisation in all its political and economic dimensions, the Arabs' place in the Soviet bloc new equation seems to recede.

To cut a long story short, the European socialist countries have rediscovered that they are first and foremost European nations which share a common civilisational background with the Western world. In order to be able to let loose the dynamics of modernisation and have them run their course in the heartland of the socialist bloc, there was no escape from striving for an accommodation with the Western capitals, especially if it could be conducted on honourable and reciprocal basis as indeed the situation has turned out to be.

Certainly, it stands to reason that the allies of the West like the USSR would stand to reap also the fruit of the entente now blossoming between the superpowers. It would be illogical from the Western point of view for the East to seek its friendship and at

the same time maintain a hostile profile against one of its offspring! Obviously, this equation works both ways as the allies of the Soviet bloc countries would also end up benefiting from the new code of conduct between Washington and Moscow.

As much of the Soviet and Eastern Bloc "infatuation" with the Arab World was artificially induced and predicated on the premise of constant zealous hostility between the North Atlantic Alliance and the Warsaw Pact, and whereas many of these preconditions are slowly but surely eroding and fading away into oblivion, it figures that Moscow would sooner or later redefine its relations with the Arab World and evolve its seemingly unqualified support into a qualified one.

To put it more bluntly, the weight of the Arab World as it is presently constituted as far as the Warsaw Pact countries is concerned would decrease in a way proportional to the degree of détente achievable between the East and the West.

Over and above these considerations, the Soviet bloc countries know only too well that the Jews in most Western countries enjoy a privileged status and therefore hold the key to the success or failure of the on-going process of cooperation and détente between the two blocs. Surely Moscow would not want to give the American Jews, for example, an excuse to derail one of their cherished objectives.

On second thought, no wonder the Arab World has not staged an uproar over the Israeli-Soviet bloc rapprochement. The fundamentals of real-politik must have soaked very deeply this time into the Arab psyche.



Afghanistan: Moscow fills the military gap with economic aid

By Michael Battye
Reuters

KABUL — Moscow has triggered intense diplomatic speculation over its intentions in Afghanistan by promising massive post-war reconstruction aid and appointing a powerful diplomat as its envoy to Kabul.

Western diplomats said Friday that the Soviet government appeared to be trying to salvage what political and economic influence it could four months before it is due to withdraw its last combat troops from Afghanistan. "Obviously, some major political manoeuvring is going on," one diplomat said.

But they could find no hard evidence in the moves to suggest exactly what Moscow had in mind after nine years of military involvement, that could end with the war between the Soviet-backed government and Mujahideen rebels unresolved.

On Wednesday, Moscow promised \$600 million to a United Nations post-war reconstruction fund, whose first phase cost is put at \$1.2 billion.

On Thursday, First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov,

considered close to the Kremlin leadership, was named as ambassador. He will keep his ministerial post.

The aid pledge left room for diplomatic cynicism on whether Moscow was prepared to step back from the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), whose government its troops have been propping up since 1979.

"It indicates to me that they have no interest in letting go, at least in the political-military sense. The tactics may have changed, but the policy hasn't," one diplomat said.

Another said: "I wouldn't want to commit myself before I've read the small print, but the offer appears to be tied to the provision of equipment, which will give Moscow a greater degree of control over the aid than if it simply gave money."

The diplomats agreed that Vorontsov would have considerable freedom of action. "People clear Afghan policy with him, not the other way round," one said. They saw the central question as how Vorontsov would direct his power, with most Mujahideen groups apparently ready to settle

for nothing less than the complete removal of the PDPA.

Most Western diplomats in Kabul believe the Mujahideen claim that they will win the war once the Soviet troops have left by Feb. 15 under April's Geneva Accords, mediated by U.N. special representative Diego Cordovez.

Others believe the PDPA can hold on to Kabul and other major cities in a military stalemate.

The Mujahideen has rejected the PDPA's offer of a coalition government and diplomats said that Moscow seemed disappointed at the failure of this attempt at "national reconciliation."

"It might be that the next Soviet fall-back position would be to embrace the Cordovez plan and Vorontsov would negotiate that," one said.

Cordovez proposed that a neutral government be established in Kabul to oversee the Soviet withdrawal and then hold a traditional Afghan assembly, known as a "Loyal Jirga," to form a government.

Soviet support for the plan would be significant concession,

implying acceptance of diminished influence and control, the diplomats said.

But some thought Moscow was not ready for this.

"If Vorontsov's mission is to negotiate peace, then he has to come up with something else," one source said.

They said any peace offer from Vorontsov would probably be rejected by the Mujahideen and would be a new step in what diplomats see as a campaign to enhance the PDPA's credibility as the peace-seekers in a long and bitter war.

Pakistan, which signed the Geneva accords with Kabul, has three million Afghan refugees, hosts the political leadership of the Mujahideen and is the main supply route for rebel arms.

It is due to hold elections in November, shortly after the United States, which supplies the bulk of the arms, has its presidential election.

Diplomats believe any government elected in Pakistan would be less supportive of the Mujahideen than President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, killed in an August plane crash.

OPEN FORUM

Nobel Prize: A noble idea

IN a recent article in *The Washington Post*, the American columnist, Colman McCarthy, questioned the wisdom behind giving the Nobel Prize to the U.N. peace-keeping forces for the year 1988.

He argued that if the Norwegian Nobel committee could not find a person or a body worthy of this symbolic award, then this should have been another no-winner year, as was the case in 1972.

To reward a person or an organisation for the services rendered to cement peace anywhere, any time, is unquestionably a noble effort. It is not the intention of this writer to question the importance of such an endeavour. The question we should be pondering in the Middle East is something else.

According to some reports there are approximately 10,000 men, in different contingents, and under different names, stationed in seven trouble spots around the world. Aside from the Indian-Pakistani borders and Afghanistan, (a force not exceeding 86 men all together), the remainder of these contingents are stationed in the Middle East. Some of them have been in the area for quite some time.

The bulk of these men is positioned between Israel and some Arab states; about 350 of them are observing the ceasefire lines between Iran and Iraq; some 2,100 men have been monitoring the buffer zone between the Turkish and Greek sectors in Cyprus since 1973.

The mission of these blue-beret men could provide some food for thought: Should people in this region be happy and grateful for all the attention bestowed on them by the international community? Or can they help not to worry because they are doomed to the permanent presence of the peace-keeping force as another fixture in their lives, such as bad-traffic or Roman amphitheatres, or cedar or olive trees?

In comparison with other trouble spots on this earth, people in the Middle East may wonder how other enemy-neighbours survive their quarrels, before and after they erupt. In this instance, memory can flash immediately to other regions such as Central America, South East Asia, South and Central Africa, and other explosive spots.

What is so unique about our area that generations have to grow up with this constant reminder of the hostility curse? Is it something inherent in the psyche of the people of this region to live in a continuous state of tension and fear? Or is it an imposed syndrome?

Indeed, we are happy that these men's mission has been appropriately rewarded this year. We shall be happier if we could, one day soon, bid them farewell when they have accomplished their mission.

Salim Ayoub

Serbia's populist leader faces federal challenge

By Peter Humphrey
Reuters

BELGRADE — The man many Serbs sing of as their country's next Tito may soon be fighting for political survival.

Serbian Communist Party leader Slobodan Milosevic, nicknamed "Freedom" (Sloboda) by his fans, has alienated key politicians by helping to launch a power struggle which has led to Yugoslavia's worst turmoil since World War II.

"A week ago, he looked as though he was on a winning streak, but the rest of the country has ganged up on him in the most unusual show of unity," said a Western ambassador.

Milosevic, 47, has used grievances by the powerful Serbian

ethnic group to propel himself toward national leadership in a country which has lacked a strong leader since Joseph Broz Tito died in 1980.

Thousands of demonstrators backing his campaigns sing in praise of Milosevic while waving giant hand-painted portraits of him.

But Western diplomats said the popular protests he helped unleash might backfire at a party plenum next week.

In Titograd, capital of the Montenegro region, witnesses said scores of people were injured last weekend when paramilitary police used tear gas and clubs to quell protests over austerity and alleged maltreatment of Slavs by ethnic Albanians in Kosovo province.

Space back in fashion in U.S. as shuttle resumes business

By Graham Earnshaw
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Space is back in fashion in the United States with the shuttle in business once more and both presidential candidates declaring their support for the next big project — a permanent space station.

President Reagan pleased space enthusiasts just before the shuttle flight, the first in nearly three years, when he declared the United States should lead the way in fulfilling mankind's destiny to "colonise this galaxy."

Just how fast the United States reaches for the stars will depend to some extent on who wins the presidential election next month, Republican George Bush or Democrat Michael Dukakis.

So far, space buffs are encouraged by what both have said on an issue they view as crucial to

the future of the human race.

"Space exploration provides our children, the next generation of scientists and engineers, with a sense of vision to encourage their imaginations and energies," said Bush.

Dukakis countered by declaring: "Sometime in the 21st century, humans will leave this planet to explore, and ultimately live and work on the Moon and Mars. We should begin now to take the early steps to achieve that goal."

He added that as president, he would want America "not just to be part of international space effort, but to be the leader in space."

But as astronaut David Walker who flew on a shuttle mission in 1984 told Reuters: "It's kind of hard to tell what politicians are going to do from their campaign statements."

The first major project on

America's space list is a permanent manned space station, scheduled to be put into orbit in the late-1990s, which will serve as a laboratory and perhaps a jumping-off point for more distant destinations.

"We're pleased that both candidates have come out in favour of the space station," said Glen Wilson, executive director emeritus of the privately-funded National Space Society.

"Also both of them have come out in favour of reviving the national aeronautics and space council which (former president) Nixon abolished in 1973," he added.

But the candidates disagree over a proposed spaceship/aircraft dubbed the Orient Express which could take off into orbit and land again without the aid of expensive rocket boosters used to lift the present shuttle out of the

earth's grip.

Bush is for it, Dukakis against.

"The shuttle and the space station are infrastructure in search of a mission"

The consensus among the experts seems to be that since the 1986 Challenger disaster, the United States has fallen behind the Soviet Union in many important

areas of space research.

"We have lost some ground," said astronaut Walker. "(The Russians) have gained a lot of experience in near-earth orbit particularly. They haven't been able to do a lot outside earth's immediate vicinity, but they're getting there."

The two most common suggestions are a mission to Mars and a settlement on the Moon, but the unity of purpose which took the United States to the Moon in 1969, only eight years after President Kennedy set the goal, is conspicuously lacking.

"The shuttle and the space station are infrastructure in search of a mission," the New York Times said in an editorial.

What is clear is that while the United States made it to the Moon alone, future exploration is almost certain to be a joint effort. A combined Soviet-American

mission to Mars is under discussion, and 11 countries signed an agreement last week on cooperating with the United States on the development of the space station.

Space enthusiasts say that even if agreement cannot be reached now on what the United States should aim for next, a start must be made to lift mankind out of the cradle of earth.

"I believe it is absolutely essential (that we move beyond the earth) because of the limits on resources," said Dr. Peter Graser, who pioneered the idea of solar power satellites which could collect and transfer energy from space to the earth.

Astronaut David Walker agreed. "Man is the dominant species on this small planet and is rapidly using and polluting its resources," he said. "If we persist... we'll use it up and we'll need some place else to go."

Basra rises from the ashes of war

By Subby Haddad
Reuters

BASRA, Iraq — The devastated Iraqi city which stemmed the advance of Iran's revolutionary forces is emerging from the ashes of war after eight years under siege.

Thousands of civilians are returning to the port city of Basra, once only a rifle-shot from the frontlines of the Gulf war.

Iran's blitzkrieg into Iraq faltered at front-line Basra two years ago.

Iraqi troops in bunkers and trenches clung to the city as night after night Iranian artillery gunned it from across the Shatt Al Arab waterway.

But the Iranians were unable to drive a wedge into the city and the siege failed.

When Baghdad turned the tide of war against Iran earlier this year, pushing the Iranians back across the Shatt Al Arab, Basra emerged, bloodied but unbowed.

The governor of this city of 10 million palm trees on the banks of the Shatt Al Arab waterway, now says he plans to turn it into the Venice of the East.

"Thousands of workers, including some working for foreign companies, are working day and night to reconstruct damaged buildings and build new ones," governor Anwar Sa'eed Al Hadithy said Friday.

Hadithy said one house in three was destroyed in the shelling which killed 1,638 civilians and wounded 7,282.

"More than 95 per cent of those who left Basra to escape intensive Iranian shelling during the last few years of the war have re-

turned and Basra's population now exceeds one million," he added.

Hadithy said the Iraqi government had allocated \$4.5 billion to rebuild Basra, in addition to money in the annual budget and five-year plan.

Much of Basra was destroyed by Iranian artillery shells and rocket fire during the eight year Iran-Iraq war which ended with a U.N.-brokered ceasefire on Aug. 20.

Many of the buildings and hotels along the Shatt Al Arab waterway, which forms the front-line with Iran, are little more than shell-pocked ruins.

Rusting hulks of ships partly block the silted-up channels — bullets and shell-holes in their superstructure bearing mute testimony to the fighting which raged around the southern Iraqi city.

The blocked waterway is Basra's only outlet to the Gulf.

Hadithy said nearly 65,000 heavy artillery shells fell on the city destroying thousands of houses, 140 schools, 57 mosques, 38 hotels, 18 hospitals, six churches and 1,888 civilian cars, in addition to heavy damage to government property.

During the visit to Basra, reporters saw a revitalised city with bustling markets and crowded streets.

"I left Basra after an Iranian shell destroyed my house a few months ago... Now I have returned to rebuild," said a Basra resident.

Heavy lorries were ferrying in tonnes of bricks and cement as bulldozers toiled to remove massive piles of rubble clearing the way for new houses to be built.

Rifai urges public participation

(Continued from page 1)

He said that much of the recent demand for foreign currencies may have occurred for the purposes of capital flight or speculation against the dinar and that the government was capable of financing the legitimate needs of the private sector. He said some individuals "must not expect the government to provide them with cheap dollars for speculation purposes."

He added: "The government has great financial commitments. We have to cover the imports of the public and private sectors, servicing our foreign debt and paying interest on loans."

The prime minister said Jordan's revenues stood at \$1 billion, while its imports exceeded \$2.8 billion in the same year.

"This gap must be reduced by increasing exports and squeezing imports," he said. The recent measures will increase the competitiveness of Jordanian exports and investments and that the government will cooperate with the private sector to find new markets for these goods, he said.

Citing other examples on the drain of foreign currencies, the prime minister said that while the Kingdom had a \$600 million foreign currency revenue from tourism last year, Jordanians spent \$450 million abroad on tourism, studies and treatment. He said that last year's remittances from expatriates reached \$900 million, but that foreign workers in the country transferred \$200 million outside.

Reducing spending

In the area of reducing public spending, Rifai said the government would reduce its imports of cars and equipment and other requirements with the hope that the private sector would respond by reducing imports of luxury products.

Rifai agreed that the recent monetary measures may create inflationary effects on the economy but that the government hopes inflation will remain within reasonable limits. He said the government was determined not to raise the prices of basic food commodities even if there was an increase in international prices. He said the government was considering a reduction in the prices of some services such as water and electricity.

In response to a question, Rifai categorically denied that there was a decline in remittances from expatriates.

"Remittances are continuing at their annual average and I wish to confirm that there is absolutely no truth to these rumours," Rifai regretted the failure of

Arab states, with the exception of Saudi Arabia, to fulfill their financial commitments to the Kingdom in accordance with the 1978 Baghdad summit resolutions.

He said Jordan had borrowed from abroad based on expectations that Arab states would honour their financial commitments to the Kingdom. He said the country's indebtedness was almost the same as the unpaid Arab financial commitments within the projections of Arab financial assistance estimated at \$6 billion.

Rifai said Arab leaders pledged at the Amman Arab summit and the Algiers summit to pay their commitments over the coming years.

The private sector, he said, has failed to play an effective role in economic growth, despite several packages of incentives and facilities offered by the government to boost investments and economic activity. However, he added, the government will continue to support the private sector, which "can play a vital role."

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Nasser's son's trial begins Nov.1 **Denmark keen on ties with Iran**

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — The son of the late Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser, will stand trial Nov. 1 with 19 others charged with anti-Israeli and anti-American extremism. The trial date was set by judge Abdul Ghaffar Muhammad, head of the appeals court, according to the state-owned newspaper Al-Ahram. The 38-year-old Khaled has affirmed in several published interviews that he would return from his self-imposed exile in Yugoslavia to face the trial as soon as it begins. If convicted, Khaled and 10 others could be hanged and the rest could receive prison terms up to life. He and the groups were charged with forming a clandestine organisation called Egypt's Revolution and involvement in four shootings between 1984 and 1987 that killed two Israeli embassy personnel and wounded six Israelis and two American diplomats.

Former Egyptian queen dies

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's former Queen Sufinaz Zulfikar died in hospital Sunday at the age of 68, a hospital statement said. Zulfikar, who was suffering from leukemia, adopted the name Farida after she married King Farouk in accordance with a tradition that all members of the royal family have the same initial. Farouk, deposed in 1952 in a military coup led by the late Gamal Abdul Nasser, died in exile in Italy. He divorced Zulfikar in 1948 and she lived most of her life in Paris with her three daughters. A keen artist, she returned to Cairo in 1974.

Sudan tribal clashes kill 50

KHARTOUM (R) — Armed bands have killed about 50 villagers in Sudan's western Darfur region bordering Chad, a Khartoum newspaper Sunday quoted the area's member of parliament as saying. Al-Sudani quoted Ibrahim Mohammad Abbo as saying some 1,500 armed men had attacked villages at Wad Salih and Makjer last month, killing 30 people and destroying property. The MP said the attackers were Chadians. Officials from Sudan and Chad early this month discussed border problems between the two countries, including infiltration by armed men into Darfur region. Western diplomats said then that the presence of about 2,000 followers of a Chadian opposition leader Sheikh Ibn Omer in Darfur was still a major cause of friction there. The MP also said that during September people from the Zagawa tribe of Darfur, north of the border town of Geneina, attacked Arab tribesmen in the area, killing 18 of them and stealing 520 camels.

U.N. to assemble helicopter force in Gulf, Norway says

By Philip Shehadi
Reuters

KUWAIT — The United Nations is assembling a force of helicopters and small aircraft to help it monitor the Iran-Iraq ceasefire, Norwegian Defence Minister Johan Joergen Holst said Sunday.

Holst, on a Middle East tour, also criticised the spread of chemical weapons and medium-range missiles in the Gulf and challenged Israel to prove its support for international curbs on nuclear proliferation.

Norway has nearly 1,000 soldiers with U.N. peacekeeping forces in the Middle East, including 15 with the U.N. Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIMOG) stationed along the 1,200-kilometre Iran-Iraq border.

"We've been asked and we've said yes to contribute personnel for a helicopter squadron to be part of the Iran-Iraq ceasefire observation team," Holst told Reuters in an interview.

"It's an enormous area and helicopters constitute a very efficient way of bringing people from point A to point B... and of course from the air your ability to observe is significantly enhanced."

Holst said Norway would contribute around 25 pilots, navigators and maintenance personnel to the helicopter squadron. He said the United Nations envisaged a separate squadron of light aircraft but was still working out details.

The Aug. 20 ceasefire has held with few violations and Holst said he was optimistic U.N.-sponsored peace talks to end the eight-year-old conflict would eventually bear fruit.

The talks have stalled over an Iraqi demand that clearing the Shatt Al Arab waterway, which forms the southern Iran-Iraq border, take priority over a withdrawal of forces.

Holst reiterated Norwegian support for a U.N. naval force in the Gulf, where dozens of foreign warships have been patrolling shipping lanes since mines were discovered there last year. But he said such a force was unlikely in the short term.

He said he would express Norway's concern to Middle East leaders about the proliferation of chemical weapons and medium-range missiles.

"I would hope there would be some cooperation between great powers which are major producers of these weapons and local

Syrian troops end the fighting 6 killed, 25 injured in east Beirut clash

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — The Amal militia and militants of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, or party of God, clashed overnight and police said Sunday six people were killed and 25 wounded in the five-hour battle in south Beirut.

Each side accused the other of starting the firefight in the densely populated Shiyah and Ghobeiri neighbourhoods.

Police said both sides used mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns during the clash which ended when Syrian soldiers deployed in the embattled districts.

A police spokesman, who cannot be named in line with standing regulations, said an apartment building was set ablaze during the exchanges.

The conservative newspaper Ad-Diyar quoted an Amal source as saying Hezbollah militant kidnapped five of Amal members and released them several hours later after beating them. Two of the freed men were hospitalised with various injuries.

The same newspaper, based in Christian east Beirut, quoted Hezbollah sources as saying the fighting erupted when Hezbollah militants tried to prevent Amal

militiamen from raiding an apartment inhabited by Hezbollah "sympathisers," claiming they wanted to search the flat.

The Hezbollah sources said the Amal fighters fired a rocket into the apartment when the Hezbollahis tried to "defend themselves."

There was no way to verify either report.

It was the first major clash in five months between the two factions, vying for mastery of the Shi'ite Muslim community of 1.2 million.

Syrian troops deployed in South Beirut May 27 after a three-week bloody confrontation between Hezbollah and Amal in which 300 people were killed and 1,000 were wounded.

Fundamentalists demonstrate in Cairo

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — About 200 Muslim fundamentalists took to the streets Saturday in downtown Cairo, shouting slogans against the government.

Police sources said many of them escaped in a commandeered public bus after severely beating a traffic policeman, attacking a soldier and another traffic policeman and smashing a police car.

The interior ministry, in charge of internal security, said in a statement the demonstrators shouted slogans against the government and demanding release of jailed fundamentalists.

"The police confronted them," arrested four and the others dispersed, the statement said. It added that the incident resulted in injuries to one officer and damage to a police car.

Sources said the demonstrators were demanding release of prisoners detained last August after a clash between Muslim extremists and police outside a mosque in a Cairo suburb.

That clash and a subsequent security sweep left three people dead and at least 40 wounded. The exact number of people remaining in jail is unclear.

Several of 114 people originally detained have been released and some rearrested since August.

Saturday's demonstrators apparently belonged to the same group involved in the August trouble. The police sources said the demonstrators decided Saturday's march during a Friday night meeting at Adam mosque, where the previous trouble started.

The ministry statement said the demonstrators gathered at the higher court of justice in a busy downtown area and began a march.

Swarms of locusts invade Saudi Arabian coast

RIYADH (R) — Swarms of desert locusts stretching over a 650-kilometre front have begun invading Saudi Arabia, officials said.

Officials from the Jeddah-based Locust Research Centre said at the weekend the invasion of the voracious insects could be the worst in 20 years and cause heavy crop damage.

"There are many locusts around," said a centre official. "They started arriving Wednesday and Thursday from Sudan and Ethiopia."

"This is a very intensive invasion. They are covering the entire region," he said.

"We are doing our best in attempting to control them but if they continue coming some agricultural damage may occur."

Saudi officials have been preparing all summer for the locusts whose number have reached plague proportion in Africa.

The insects are now along most of Saudi Arabia's narrow Red Sea coastal area called the Tihama, infesting an area running from 350 kilometres north of the port city of Jeddah to 300 kilometres south of the city, officials say.

They fear the locusts could easily spread to the nearby mountain range and south to the port of Jizan and breed.

"There is little danger that the insects will breed along the coast because it is too dry," said one official. "However if they reach Taif (in the mountains) or the Jizan area they will find better breeding grounds due to recent rains."

"That is the real danger."

If the locusts begin laying eggs the cycle will continue and new locusts will continue their migration in search of new areas, he explained.

Control teams have already begun the fight to counter the threat, using special insecticides, centre officials said.

Last spring, at least 19 swarms of locusts, some flying in waves 10 kilometres wide by 10 kilometres deep, invaded the northwest tip of the country in the Tabuk, Al-Jouf and Hail regions. No reports of agricultural damage were ever announced.

Experts from the food and agricultural organisation say this year's locust invasion is the worst in recent history with parts of North Africa effectively under siege.

Efforts to counter them have been hindered by a lack of planes and insecticides in Ethiopia and Sudan, as well as border disputes between the two countries.

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Gulf Arab oil chiefs ponder ways to boost output, prices

RIYADH (R) — Oil ministers of six Gulf Arab states, responsible for one-fifth of the non-communist world's crude oil production, met in Riyadh Sunday to discuss ways of raising world oil prices.

One Gulf-based oil trader said dealers expected the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ministers to agree on a policy which could lead to a new OPEC quota agreement to replace a battered 1986 pact on output and prices.

The GCC links Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — all members of OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) — with non-OPEC Bahrain and Oman.

A glutted market, caused by several OPEC members including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the UAE exceeding their output quotas, has forced world spot prices down to their lowest for two years.

Saudi Arabia, the world's

largest oil exporter, has said repeatedly that other OPEC states must respect quota discipline before it will lower its production.

Oil industry sources said the Saudis were apparently trying to line up their Gulf allies behind a policy which would enable OPEC to raise the quotas of some individual members.

"All Gulf members, especially Kuwait and the UAE, want higher quotas and they might agree on a proposal to OPEC on a new agreement on allocations," said one analyst in the Gulf.

The 1986 pact set a total production ceiling of 15.06 million barrels per day (bpd) for 12 members, excluding Iraq. Forecasts put world demand for OPEC oil at about 19 million bpd next year.

Oil analysts said Saudi Arabia's policy was intended to depress prices until the financial pressures of lower revenues forced OPEC members to respect their quotas.

"Accepting quotas is one thing and abiding by them is another," said one analyst. "The Saudis this time want every state to be included in an OPEC output pact, including Iraq."

Production by Iraq, which remained outside the 1986 pact because it was not given a quota equal to Iran's 2.369 million bpd, is now estimated at 2.7 million bpd.

Several Gulf newspapers expressed hope that the six GCC ministers would agree a strategy which would lead to proper cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC producers.

Saudi Arabia's Arabic-language daily Al-Nadwa said the ministers should emerge from the two-day meeting with a united policy reiterating obedience to

prices and quota agreements.

It said in an editorial that this would leave other OPEC members with no choice but to abide by their quotas because the alternative was a price crash.

The six GCC states produce around 9.6 million bpd of oil, meeting one-fifth of the non-communist world's demand for 48.8 million bpd.

Saudi Arabia alone produced almost five million bpd in September, oil industry sources estimate.

The GCC meeting will be followed by joint talks between OPEC's prices and long-term strategy committees in Madrid next Thursday on stemming the slide in oil prices.

Prices are now at least \$7 below the OPEC reference price of \$18 a barrel set in the 1986 pact. The Madrid meetings will bring together OPEC's eight top producers — Algeria, Iraq, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

AFM issues 10th report, '88 statistics

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Financial Market (AFM) has recently published in English its tenth annual report and a booklet which both include information and statistics about the activities at both the primary and secondary markets and rules and regulations governing foreign and Arab investments in the market.

The report and the booklet contain tables and statistics about trading that took place during the years 1978-1987.

The publications were published under a strong belief that the disclosure of information is vital in helping foreign investors to make investment decisions on clear, rational and objective basis.

The AFM is willing to distribute the booklets locally and internationally upon request and free of charge.

Libya's desert river to flow next year

BREGA, Libya (R) — Fresh water will start flowing from the edge of the Sahara to Libya's parched coastal plains next year in an irrigation scheme which Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi calls the eighth wonder of the world.

The first phase of the "great man-made river," one of the world's largest engineering projects, has passed the half-way mark, officials told reporters during a recent visit to the coastal oil town of Brega 700 kilometres east of Tripoli.

Libya has persevered with the multi-billion dollar scheme despite a hard currency crunch caused by the falling world price of oil, its main source of revenue.

The goal is self-sufficiency in fruit, vegetables and wheat and drinking water for the country's four million people, most of whom live along the coast.

"We need the water very, very badly," said Othman Jaouda, manager of a U.S.-designed plant in Brega that makes segments of concrete pipe.

From the air, pipe sections lined up along the route look like beads of a necklace strung along the desert sand.

The first phase consists of 1,900 kilometres of pipe from wells 350 metres deep at Sarir and Tazerbo to the coastal cities of Sirte and Benghazi.

A contract for the second phase, to serve the capital Tripoli from wells in western Libya, is due to be awarded by the end of this year, Jaouda said.

Oil prospectors discovered vast underground aquifers in the 1970s deep in the Libyan desert. "Our problem was that the water was in a place with few inhabitants," Jaouda said.

"Either we brought the water to the people or settle people near the water. Moving the people is very hard."

A \$3.3 billion turnkey contract for the first phase was signed in 1983 with the South Korean construction firm Dong A. Some 4,000 Koreans, many living in a tidy camp near here, make the pipes, dig the line, and transport and lay pipe.

Jaouda said the first phase was four to five months behind schedule, which he attributed to unexpected logistical problems — including unexploded World War II mines buried along the coast.

Most of the factory equipment, including cranes and rails, was made in the United States.

Jordan to benefit

Turkey completes study on water for Arab countries

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Turkey has completed a study for a \$21 billion project to channel water from Turkish rivers to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, a Turkish diplomat said Sunday.

Embassy First Secretary Naci Saribas said the plan called for two separate pipelines pumping at least six million cubic metres daily from the rivers Seyhan and Ceyhan.

He said it would take 8-10 years to complete.

"Our desire is to submit... this excess water to the benefit of friendly and brotherly Arab countries," Saribas said.

He said the western branch of "the peace water pipeline" would supply Syria, Jordan and parts of Saudi Arabia — including Tabuk, Yanbu, Medina, Mecca and Jeddah.

The western pipeline would have 11 pumping stations using 900 megawatts of power along a 2,650-kilometre route.

The Gulf pipeline would cross Saudi Arabia to Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

That branch would require 600 megawatts of power for five pumping stations across a 3,900-kilometre distance.

Estimated cost for the western pipeline is around \$8.5 billion and another \$12.5 billion for the Gulf pipeline, Saribas said.

He said Turkish experts and consultants from the American firm Brown and Root already had visited Syria, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman to collect technical information for the project.

International and regional experts have warned that the Gulf countries are depleting their natural aquifers faster than nature can replenish them and the area will face a water shortage in the coming years.

Exchange president stresses reforms to reassure investors

WASHINGTON (R) — More reforms are needed to bolster investor confidence in stock markets and reduce the risk of another collapse like the one a year ago, the chairman of the American Stock Exchange said Sunday.

"I don't think it would happen again quite in the same way," Arthur Levitt said in a televised interview. "But unless we make some significant additional changes, I remain concerned about the future."

Wall Street share prices suffered their sharpest plunge in history Oct. 19, 1987.

Levitt said two recommendations made by a presidential commission were necessary but had not been carried out.

"Number one, to have a joint central clearing facility which would clear all trades in futures, options and in the underlying securities," Levitt said. "That hasn't happened yet."

"Secondly, the important recommendation to have a joint regulatory authority so that the rules for futures, the rules for underlying securities, are made by the same body."

"Today they remain redundant, sometimes contradictory, and that remains a problem to be met before we can get the public to come back into this marketplace."

Levitt said he hoped the stock markets' self-regulatory agencies could act soon to head off more onerous legislative changes.

"I think the Congress is impatient in the face of a laissez-faire

administration and my concern is that the Congress may over-regulate," he said.

Levitt said the U.S. presidential candidates — Republican George Bush and Democrat Michael Dukakis — had neglected the issue of how to cut the huge federal budget deficit, which he said was unsettling investors.

As a result, "the public gains no reassurance in terms of the ability of our national leaders to meet this critical problem," he said.

The deficit is the most serious problem facing the United States, Levitt said.

He said the reasons for the markets' plunge last year still were poorly understood and suggested there should be a "nonpartisan, impartial, long-term study of our markets... headed by someone of impeccable credentials" to reassure the public.

He said it was a legitimate question whether small investors believe they are treated as well as big institutional buyers and said a study might help persuade them to return to the market.

John Dingell, chairman of the House of Representatives Energy Committee, appearing on the same TV programme, said another stock market collapse was possible because of the huge U.S. national debt and budget deficit.

Dingell said "the little guy sees the market as a crashshoot" and the Reagan administration has opposed recommendations for reforming it.

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4,000 athletes to participate in Paralympics in Seoul

SEOUL (AP) — A campaign is under way to seek the International Olympic Committee's support for disabled athletes who want to compete in the Olympic games, an international sports official said Sunday.

"Sports for the disabled should be a genuine part of the sports movement worldwide," said Jens Bromann, president of the International Paralympic Committee of the World Sports Organisation for the Disabled.

Bromann, here for the 8th international Paralympic games, which started Saturday, said discussions were under way with the International Olympic Committee and international sports federations on revising "old-fashioned" rules and classifications regarding participants.

Bromann said Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, planned to make his first visit to a Paralympics next week, and talks would be renewed on efforts to open the Olympic games to disabled athletes.

"Disabled people can do unique things in the sports arena, just as well as the able-bodied. Disabled sportsmen want the same honour as other sportsmen," Bromann said.

He said that the Paralympics, an international games for the disabled, would be held even after disabled athletes were permitted in Olympic sports but would consist of competitions "in sports not included in the IOC Olympics."

This year's largest-ever Paralympics, scheduled Oct. 14-15, has competitions in 16 sports. As of Sunday there were 4,000 participants from 60 nations.

Four nations have protested a quota system which they claim limited the numbers of athletes they could send, The United States, Sweden, Denmark and West Germany said they were told to limit their delegations because of space at Paralympic village where athletes and coaches are housed.

The ICC said that in 1984, when arrangements were made with the South Korean government, the highest number in attendance at a Paralympics had been 2,500. The ICC said it requested accommodation for 4,000 and when the reservations totalled nearly 6,000, numbers had to be cut back.

Meetings between the IOC and the ICC started in 1983, Bromann said, and resulted in sports for disabled athletes being added to recent Olympics as demonstration events. Wheelchair races took place during last month's Olympics in Seoul.

In addition, over the last two years, disabled athletes have competed in international competitions such as Track and Field in Rome, swimming in Barcelona and skiing in West Germany.

Bromann, blinded by an accident at age 10, was a Paralympic athlete in 1976 and 1980. He said he was frustrated that he was considered a disabled person instead of an athlete.

"Some say eight to 10 per cent of the world's population are disabled," he said. "In some countries, people think that if you're disabled, you must have done something bad in your former life."



Jordan scores polo victory

The Jordanian national polo team beat the British national polo team 4-2 in a friendly match held in Zarqa Sunday. The captain of the Jordanian team, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, received a trophy (photo above) from Sheikh Salman bin Hamad bin Issa, son of the crown prince of Bahrain, who is currently on a visit to Jordan.

Amman Little League Football

Scores
Friday, Oct. 14, 1988

TOTS TEAM	TEAM
DHL (0)	Intercontinental Hotel (1)
Butterfly Tea (1)	Jordan Express (3)
JUNIORS	
Westinghouse (3)	Jordan Worsted Mills (2)
Pirelli (3)	Leonardo Da Vinci (1)
Nashashibi-Ebbini (0)	Arab Bank (1)
MIDS	
Al-Ahlyah Financial Investment Co (3)	National Engineering & Contracting Co (1)
Volvo (0)	Caro Amman Bank (5)
Samer (1)	Danish Dairy (2)
SENIORS	
Ericsson (1)	Geotechnical Engineering & Materials Testing Co (5)
Wang Computers (3)	Near East Productions (2)
— Thursday Oct. 13, 1988 replay —	
Westinghouse (0)	Arab Bank (2)

— FOOTBALL STANDINGS —

TOTS	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Jordan Express	5	4	0	1	10	0	13
Intercon.	5	3	1	1	3	2	10
DHL	5	1	3	1	1	6	4
Butterfly Juniors	5	0	4	1	0	6	1
JUNIORS							
Pirelli	5	3	1	1	8	4	10
JWM	5	3	2	0	16	9	9
Arab Bank	5	3	2	0	11	3	9
Nash-Ebb	5	3	2	0	9	6	9
Westinghouse	5	2	2	1	6	5	7
Leonardo	5	0	5	0	1	22	0
MIDS							
Cairo/Amman	5	4	0	1	16	2	13
Al-Ahlyah	5	4	1	0	12	6	12
NECC	5	2	1	2	6	5	8
Danish Dairy	5	2	3	0	3	7	6
Samer	5	2	3	2	2	10	2
Volvo	5	0	4	1	1	11	1
SENIORS							
GEMT	5	3	1	1	8	3	10
Wang	5	3	2	0	11	7	9
Ericsson	5	2	3	0	7	10	6
NEP	5	1	3	1	4	8	4

U.S. college football

Notre Dame defeats Miami 31-30

NEW YORK (AP) — Fourth-ranked Notre Dame got its long-awaited revenge Saturday, defeating top-ranked Miami 31-30 as free safety Pat Terrell broke up a two-point conversion pass with 45 seconds left.

Notre Dame had been waiting for three years to make up for an embarrassing 58-7 loss to Miami. The fighting Irish, as the team is known, sought revenge last year but lost, 24-0.

With Miami's losing for the first time in 36 regular-season games, the No. 1 ranking in the nation is up for grabs.

Second-ranked University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) bid for the top spot by beating California 38-21 as quarterback Troy Aikman threw two touchdown passes and ran for a third score.

Third-ranked Southern California remained unbeaten by withstanding the same threat as did Notre Dame. No. 16 Washington was within 28-27 with 1:21 to go when Cary Conklin's two-point conversion pass was too low for Vince Weathersby.

Georgia Tech, winless against major-college competition since 1986, dominated from the opening snap in mauling No. 8 South Carolina 34-0, and Vanderbilt handed No. 20 Florida its second straight loss, 24-9.

In the other games matching ranked teams, No. 7 Nebraska won a 63-42 shootout with No. 10 Oklahoma State.

In other games involving the top ten, it was No. 5 Florida State 45, East Carolina 21, and No. 9 Oklahoma 70, Kansas State 24.

In the second ten, it was No. 12 Clemson 49, Duke 17; No. 14 Auburn, 42, Akron 0; No. 15 Michigan and Iowa played to a 17-17 tie; No. 17 Arkansas 37, Texas 24; No. 18 Indiana 33, Minnesota 13, and No. 19

broke a 14-14 tie midway through the second period on Ferguson's 17-yard touchdown pass to Ronald Lewis.

No. 7 Nebraska 63, No. 10 Oklahoma State 42.

Nebraska, averaging 45 points a game, was led by quarterback Steve Taylor, who ran for three scores and passed for two. Tailback Ken Clark contributed 256 yards and three scores.

Georgia Tech 34, No. 8 South Carolina 0.

Andre Thomas intercepted two passes, returning one 51 yards for a touchdown and the other 10 yards to set up Stefan Scott's short scoring run, as Georgia Tech ended a 15-game losing streak against division I-A opposition.

Tech, defying its underdog status, ripped to a 31-0 lead and coasted.

No. 9 Oklahoma 70, Kansas State 24.

Oklahoma ran for an national collegiate Athletic Association record 768 yards, including 123 by quarterback Charles Thompson, who scored three touchdowns and passed for another — all in the first period. Reserve halfback Eric Mitchell added 161 yards and two touchdowns on just six carries as Oklahoma ran up 829 total yards.

No. 11 Clemson 49, Duke 17.

Fullback Tracy Johnson scored twice and quarterback Rodney Williams accounted for two other scores for Clemson, 5-1. Duke, losing for the first time in seven games, got only 209 passing yards from quarterback Anthony Dilweg.

No. 12 Auburn 42, Akron 0.

Stacy Danley rushed for two touchdowns and James Joseph added a 73-yard scoring run as

Auburn improved to 5-1.

No. 14 Wyoming 55, New Mexico 7.

Dabby Dawson gained 179 yards and defensive end Dave Edeen returned an interception 78 yards for a score as Wyoming, the class of the Western Athletic Conference, ran its record to 7-0 overall and 4-0 in the league.

No. 15 Michigan 17, Iowa 17.

Iowa defensive end Joe Mott wrestled the ball from Michigan's Tracy Williams at the Hawkeyes' 1-yard line with 1 minute, 21 seconds left to preserve the tie. Ironically, Iowa lost a touchdown the same way, when Tony Stewart fumbled at the Michigan 1 in the third quarter.

No. 17 Arkansas 27, Texas 24.

Quarterback Quinn Grovey ran 21 yards for a touchdown and set up two other scores as Arkansas, 6-0 overall and 3-0 in the Southwest conference, won for only the second time in three decades at Austin, Texas.

No. 18 Indiana 33, Minnesota 13.

Anthony Thompson rushed for 139 yards and three touchdowns as Indiana, 5-0-1 overall, defeated Minnesota 33-13. Thompson's 18 points made him Indiana's career scoring leader with 304 points.

Vanderbilt 24, No. 20 Florida 9.

Eric Jones threw to Steve Kossanovich on the fourth-down play to give the Commodores, 3-3, a 17-9 lead with 9:42 left. Jones found Kossanovich in a corner of the end zone to complete an 80-yard march that put Vanderbilt in control.

No. 19 Louisiana State University 15, Kentucky 12.

LSU, 4-2 overall and 3-1 in the Southeastern Conference, took advantage of three Kentucky mistakes — a blocked punt and two bad snaps — for all its points.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

SAVE THAT ENTRY!

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ K 10 5
♥ A 10 7 4
♦ A J 7 6 3
♣ 5

EAST
♠ A 9 8 4 2
♥ K J 7 6 3
♦ Q 9 5
♣ Q 10

SOUTH
♠ Void
♥ 6 3
♦ K 9 8 5
♣ J 10 9 8 6 4 2

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass Pass 1 + Pass
2 + Pass 2 Dbl
3 + 5 Dbl Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠.

The Drury Convention has a considerable amount of merit. It is used to check on whether partner's third or fourth-seat opening bid was full value or a little light. But using any convention recklessly can be costly, as East learned.

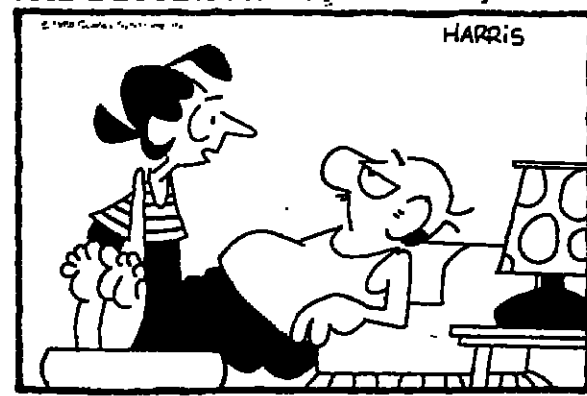
If we were sitting East, we would not care much what sort of opening bid partner had—we would bounce into four spades and leave it up to the opponents to find a way to beat us, if one existed. When East used a Drury two-club bid to check on the strength of his partner's opening and West responded two diamonds to show a shaded opening, North seized the opportunity to double diamonds for penalties. As a result, South judged that the North-South hands were fitting well, and he bounced into five diamonds as an advance sacrifice.

West's opening lead of the ace of spades did declarer no harm. However, it would have done him no good either had he ruffed—declarer would have been an entry short to set up and run his club suit. Instead, declarer made the excellent play of discarding a low heart, and the defenders were powerless to prevent the contract from being brought home.

West did the best he could by shifting to a heart. Declarer won the ace, cashed the ace of diamonds and then led a club from the dummy. The heart continuation was ruffed, a club was ruffed on the table and declarer returned to hand with the king of diamonds to ruff another club. Since trumps split favorably, declarer was able to come back to hand with another ruff, and his hand was high.

THE BETTER HALF

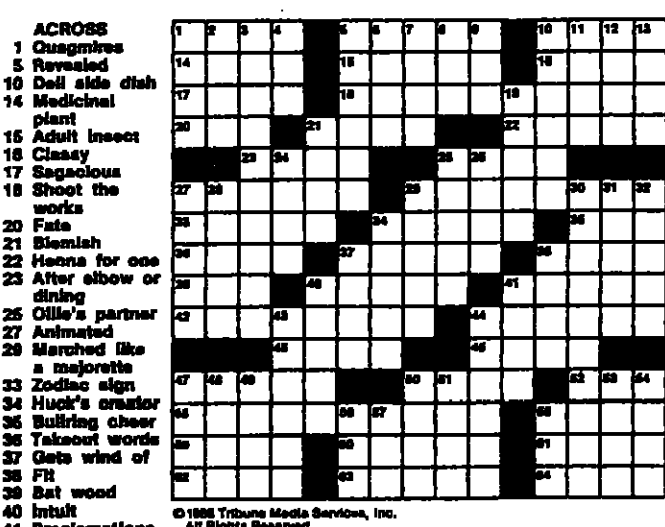
By Harris



"My exercise trampoline is broken. Can I jump on your belly for 20 minutes?"

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by Norma Steinberg

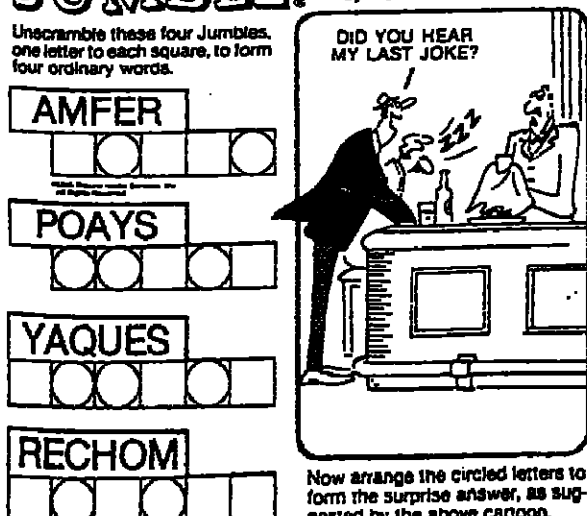


Saturday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Across: 1. Outlines
2. Revealed
3. Dull side dish
4. Medicinal plant
5. Adult insect
6. Classy
7. Sagacious
8. Shoot the works
9. Fate
10. Slender
11. Means for one
12. After elbow of dining
13. Olla's partner
14. Animated
15. Marched like a major
16. Zed-like sign
17. Huck's creator
18. Bulling cheer
19. Takeout words
20. Guts wind of
21. FR
22. Bat wood
23. Inhabit
24. Proclamations
25. Assets minus liabilities
26. Distinguishing feature
27. Gooey
28. He wrote "My Way"
29. Arrangement
30. Sound unit
31. San Francisco
32. Hill
33. Starter's
34. Run in neutral
35. Poker stake
36. Like an old woman
37. US author
38. Sudden
39. Horse
40. "High —"
41. Swigger
42. City
43. Hedgepodge
44. Eachew
45. crime
46. Observe

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

AMFER
POAYS
YAQUES
RECHOM

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

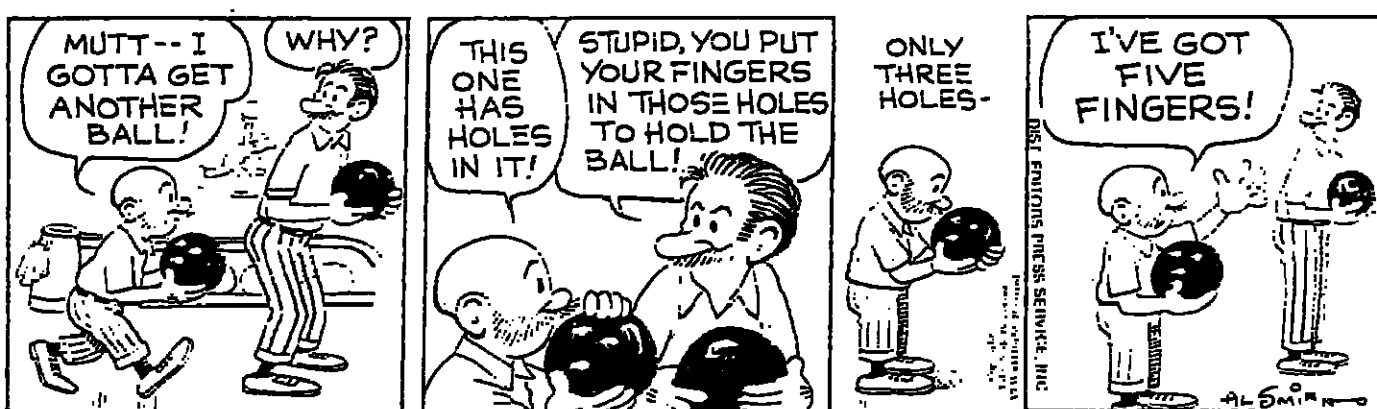
Answer: "I" (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: OCCUR STOOP PODIUM HYBRID
Answer: When it comes to love, an engagement ring is this—"BUY" PRODUCT

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Savimbi: Southern Africa peace process irreversible

JAMBA, Angola (AP) — UNITA guerrilla chief Jonas Savimbi has said negotiations to remove Cuban soldiers from Angola and push Namibia (South West Africa) towards independence were at a difficult stage, but the peace process was irreversible.

"I don't see how the process can be interrupted," Savimbi said in an interview at a UNITA supply camp. "It can only be expedited. I don't see how the clock can be turned back."

He said the main issue was how many Cuban troops would leave Angola within the first year of an expected two-year period for total withdrawal. All but 5,000 should go in the first year, Savimbi said in the interview Friday.

Angola, Cuba, South Africa and U.S. mediators have been holding periodic talks since may to negotiate the removal of more than 50,000 Cuban troops in Angola and independence for Namibia.

Discussions are expected to resume in Brazzaville, Congo, in about a week to meet a Nov. 1 target date for implementing a one-year U.N. independence plan for Namibia, Savimbi said.

UNITA — the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola — has not participated in the discussions but Savimbi said he has conferred separately with both U.S. and South African representatives.

"They are trying to maintain a certain degree of optimism," Savimbi said of the four-party negotiations.

Savimbi moves elusively through the bush, rarely spending more than a night at one place. He was interviewed by the AP and the New York Times in a thatched meeting room at dawn, after hours of driving, at times during the ride, even the reporters' UNITA escorts were not sure where he was.

The location was Luangundo

B, a supply camp separated from Jamba, UNITA's grass-hut headquarters in southeastern Angola, by 18 hours of bone-crunching travel along rutted trails in an open truck, through hail and broiling sun. The interviewers emerged to file their stories from South Africa Sunday.

Savimbi said South African fears of Cuban interference in Namibian independence would not be eased unless most of the Cubans left in the first year.

Savimbi said interests of the United States, South Africa and UNITA would not be damaged if a small number of Cubans remained after 12 months in defensive positions around Luanda, the capital, and in Cabinda, the oil-producing enclave.

Botha pulls major publicity coup with Ivory Coast visit

YAMOUSSOUKRO, Ivory Coast (R) — South Africa pulled off the biggest publicity coup yet in its courting of black Africa with a meeting this weekend between President P.W. Botha and the continent's elder statesman, Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouët-Boigny.

The five-hour stopover Saturday in the Ivory Coast capital Yamoussoukro was the first official visit by a South African president to this prosperous pro-Western state.

It was Botha's fourth foray since September into black Africa to try to win friends.

White minority-ruled South Africa has been treated as a pariah by most African states because of its apartheid policy of race segregation.

Ivorian officials were at pains to stress that Botha had asked for the meeting which gave him the unprecedented opportunity of being photographed with the doves of black African leaders.

Houphouët-Boigny, at 83 black Africa's longest serving president, has advocated dialogue with Pretoria since 1971. He secretly met former South African Prime Minister John Vorster

in Yamoussoukro in 1974. According to diplomats, Botha also once met Houphouët-Boigny in secret.

Botha began his push to break Pretoria's diplomatic isolation with visits to Mozambique and Malawi in September, and to Zaire Oct. 1.

The five-hour stopover Saturday in May this year with Angola, Cuba and the United States on independence for Namibia, which Pretoria rules in defiance of the United Nations, coupled with a timetable for the departure of Cuban troops from Angola.

Cuba has an estimated 50,000 troops in Angola to help the Marxist government fight rebels of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), who are in turn backed by Pretoria and the United States.

Pretoria has linked a Namibian peace agreement with a Cuban withdrawal from Angola, which borders Namibia to the north, the talks are expected to resume in the Congolese capital Brazzaville this week.

Houphouët-Boigny is in frequent contact with UNITA chief Jonas Savimbi

Heysel riot trial begins

BRUSSELS (R) — Twenty-six British soccer fans go on trial Monday for the unlawful killing of 39 people, mostly Italians, in riots at the Brussels Heysel Stadium.

The Britons are charged with manslaughter "by premeditated assault and battery" arising from the disaster May 29, 1985, when fans rampaged across the pitch before a European Cup final and toppled a wall on to the crowd.

The tragedy, beamed by television to shocked audiences around the world, marked a new low in soccer hooliganism and led to calls throughout Europe for stiffer penalties to combat it.

The Britons, mostly in their 20s and supporters of the English club Liverpool which met Italy's Juventus that night, could be jailed for 10 years if convicted.

Appearing with them will be three Belgians — two local police officers and Albert Roosen, general secretary of Belgium's football union.

The three Belgians face a lesser charge of unlawful killing through negligence by failing to

provide adequate security at the Heysel ground.

Two senior European Football Association officials and the mayor of Brussels and his deputy — as representatives of the stadium's owners — have also been cited in a civil suit brought by about 100 Italian victims and their families which will be judged by the same court.

A lawyer for the Italians said the court would have to consider a demand for financial compensation from the victims and their dependants. He would not disclose the amount that would be sought.

Thirty-four Italians, four Belgians and one Briton died of suffocation in the disaster and scores were injured.

English soccer teams were banned from playing in Europe.

The 26 Britons were identified months after the tragedy from video and television recording of the match and 25 of them were later extradited to Belgium.

After several months in jail, they were allowed to return home until their trial.

Bush, Dukakis urge voters to ignore polls

BOSTON (R) — A confident George Bush and a determined Michael Dukakis are both urging supporters to ignore opinion polls showing the Republican candidate extending his lead in the U.S. presidential election.

For opposite reasons, Dukakis, the Democratic governor of Massachusetts, and Bush, the Republican vice-president, both sought to play down the polling conducted after their second and last presidential debate Thursday.

"I've been in politics too long" to let over-confidence creep in during the final days of the campaign, Bush told reporters in California Saturday.

"You're talking to a guy, when the polls were going the other way, who said it wasn't over," Bush said. "Watch how hard we work."

Dukakis, who campaigned in vote-rich California and Texas Saturday before returning to Boston, also dismissed the polls that showed him losing to Bush in the

final debate and falling further behind in the race for the White House.

During a chat with reporters travelling on his campaign plane, Dukakis insisted, "this is a very tight race."

"I can't remember a race this tight at this point in time," he said. "We've been in almost a dead heat now for the last couple of weeks."

A new Los Angeles Times national poll found Bush has extended his lead over Dukakis by 52 per cent to 42 per cent. The Republican had held a lead of 47 to 40 before the debate.

In San Antonio, Texas, Dukakis alternated his speech between English and Spanish in asking an outdoor rally of some 1,500 people to press the fight.

"Little by little, step by step...together we will win," Dukakis said, his voice hoarse from speaking at a crowded schedule of campaign stops.

Dutch army gears up for varying ethnic tastes

By Galina Vromen
Reuters

THE HAGUE — When Dutch troops march off to training exercises next year, they will have a choice of regular, curried or porkless battle rations.

This is just one way the Dutch army is trying to adapt to an increasing influx of Muslim and Hindu conscripts swelling its ranks from the Netherlands' ethnic minority communities.

The military estimates that between five and eight per cent of the Dutch standing army will be Muslim or Hindu by 1995, up from about half a per cent now. In actual number, Hindus and Muslims are expected to increase from about 200 new recruits a year now to 5,000 a year in less than a decade.

Deputy Defence Minister Jan van Houwelingen last month announced a programme to ensure that minorities get a fair chance in the army, which has a long tradition of trying to make life as easy on soldiers as possible without sacrificing quality. The military has launched a drive to educate officers about minority groups.

"We want these people to take part in the army. They are part of our society and the army is part of their education in Dutch society," Lieutenant Colonel Jan van der Beek, chief of Military Social Services told Reuters in an interview.

Earlier this year, the military introduced vegetarian battle rations in part to accommodate observant Hindus, who do not eat meat from cows, and religious Muslims who eat no pork and may consume other meat only if it is ritually slaughtered.

"The vegetarian rations came because vegetarians wanted it. But we wouldn't have done it if it weren't necessary for religious minorities," said Van der Beek.

Curried battle rations for Hindus, many from the former Dutch colony of Surinam, and separate rations for Muslims, who come mostly from Morocco, Turkey and the former Dutch colony of Indonesia, will be the next innovations, he said.

There are 360,000 Muslims and 75,000 Hindus in the Netherlands, out of a total population of 14.4 million. Already, Muslim and Hindu



Vietnamese soldiers in Kampuchea's Kompong Cham province. The Vietnamese government announced Sunday that it was planning another partial withdrawal of its forces from its neighbour before December (File photo)

Hanoi declares another pullout

BANGKOK (AP) — Vietnam said Sunday that it will complete its planned withdrawal of 50,000 troops from Kampuchea on schedule in December.

That would leave about 50,000 Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea after this year, a Vietnamese official has said. The Hanoi government has pledged to withdraw all its forces by 1990.

The proposed withdrawal would be the largest of several annual pullouts announced by Vietnam. In late June, Hanoi staged a ceremony to hail the withdrawal of its military High Command and about 13,000 troops.

A joint communique issued Sunday by Vietnam and the Kampuchean government in Phnom

Penh said withdrawals of a number of units were conducted in July, August and September.

"The remaining units will be withdrawn monthly from now to the end of 1988..." said the communique.

The communique, carried by the official Vietnam news agency monitored in Bangkok, invited representatives of foreign countries, international organisations, news organisations and others to observe the withdrawal.

Reporters have covered past pullouts. Non-communist nations have not sent representatives.

The United Nations is shortly expected to adopt its 10th consecutive yearly resolution calling for a complete Vietnamese withdrawal. A new element in this

year's draft resolution is a call for "effective international supervision and control" of the pullout.

In an Oct. 4 interview in Hanoi, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach said the pullout was slowed after June because of the rainy season in Kampuchea.

Vietnam's pledge to withdraw all its troops by 1990 is being taken with increasing seriousness but has raised fears of a return of the Khmer Rouge regime in Kampuchea.

Western diplomats say they suspect the Khmer Rouge guerrillas will step into the power vacuum and attempt to regain control. Vietnam's invasion ended their bloody reign of terror.

U.S., Philippines prepare to sign base agreement

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and the Philippines Saturday tentatively concluded an agreement on continued operation of American military bases in the Pacific nation and hoped to sign it Monday, a U.S. official said.

"We are planning for a signing Monday," the official told Reuters Saturday night. "But it's not a done deal... we don't have final approval on it" from either the U.S. or the Philippine side, he said.

The official, who asked not to be identified, refused to say what still needed to be resolved but said Secretary of State George

Shultz and Philippine Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus were scheduled to sign the agreement Monday.

The accord would provide the Philippines with nearly \$1 billion in aid over the next two years, he said.

The official and other members of the Reagan administration had said Friday the last major obstacle to an agreement, after months of acrimonious negotiations, was Manila's demand for relief for its \$28.95 billion in foreign debt.

Congressional sources told Reuters then the State Department had proposed a compromise under which the United States

would promise to consider, but not necessarily undertake, a scheme in which Philippine bonds would be swapped for bonds backed by Washington.

They said this would be done in a letter, separate from the base agreement.

In addition to the debt-relief scheme, Manila had demanded \$1.2 billion per year as compensation for U.S. use of Subic Bay Naval Base, Clark Air Base and several smaller installations considered key to the U.S. presence in the Asian-Pacific region.

The United States, as of Friday, had offered about \$500 million a year

Rightists favour changes in Chile

SANTIAGO (R) — Former right-wing allies of military ruler General Augusto Pinochet said Saturday they were willing to consider opposition demands for constitutional changes aimed at speeding Chile's return to democracy.

"The demands are important and must be considered," said former Senator Francisco Bulnes, a leader of the country's top right-wing party, National Renovation.

Bulnes and Patricio Phillips, another former Pinochet supporter, said changes were called for in the constitution which allows the 72-year-old Pinochet to remain in power another 17 months following his defeat in an Oct. 5

presidential plebiscite.

They did not specify what changes they favoured, but said their parties were studying reform proposals.

A coalition of 16 opposition parties appealed directly to the armed forces Friday to sidestep Pinochet and negotiate "urgent changes" in the constitution to allow early elections.

The coalition, headed by Christian Democrat Patricio Aylwin, said Pinochet was an "obstacle" to dialogue and urged government supporters to take part in negotiations aimed at holding free elections at the shortest possible notice.

They also want changes in constitutional norms that allow

Pinochet to continue as armed forces chief until at least 1993.

Pinochet was defeated by 55 to 43 per cent in the yes-or-no vote on extending his 15-year rule.

Under the constitution, drafted by the military in 1980 and considered undemocratic by the opposition, Pinochet can remain in power until March 11, but he must call competitive presidential and congressional elections Dec. 14, 1989.

In the first clear indication that the armed forces might agree to negotiations with the opposition, air force commander General Fernando Matthei told reporters Friday he was prepared to discuss some of their demands.



Britons cross channel on wings

CALAIS, France (AP) — A man and a woman crossed the English Channel Friday, each standing on the wing of a biplane. Douglas Penn, 57, and Ann Jackson, 56, both of Britain, said they wanted to attract attention to the need for research on cancer and heart disease. Their stunt, each standing on a different plane, took them on a trip of about 30 kilometres from the English coast to Calais.

U.S.-Soviet joint rock video

CHICAGO (AP) — It's not as far-reaching as arms control, but proof that glasnost is on a roll can be seen almost daily in a Chicago studio where U.S. and Soviet filmmakers are producing a rock video. The project, the brainchild of recent philosophy graduate Robert Kath, brings together seven students from Northwestern University and Moscow's Victor Gerasimov Institute of Cinematography. The Americans spent three weeks in the Soviet Union last month, and the Soviets are nearing the end of a similar stint in the United States. Both sides are represented by full crews — producers, directors and cinematographers — that have thrashed out their creative differences for the video and an accompanying 30-minute documentary.

"The most surprising thing," Kath said, "is how their eyes seem to land on the same things as ours — the jazz musicians playing in the subway, the wealthy bankers walking down Lasalle street."

10-year-old twins arrested in bust

AMERSFOORT, Netherlands (AP) — Dutch police have arrested a 10-year-old girl and her twin brother after the children attempted to smuggle 6.5 kilograms of cocaine into the Netherlands, police said Saturday. The children's 37-year-old mother, their 59-year-old grandmother, an aunt and two uncles also were arrested for their alleged involvement in the smuggling ring, according to Amersfoort Police Spokesman Rudd Tjissen. The children were carrying the cocaine concealed in a small knapsack and handbag when they arrived at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport on a flight from Curaçao last Thursday. Tjissen said, "We don't think they really knew" what they were carrying. Tjissen told the AP adding the twins were sent to stay with relatives later in the day.

King's killer writing book

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — James Earl Ray, convicted of assassinating Martin Luther King Jr., is writing a book saying the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was responsible for the slaying, and Ray's wife says their marriage is breaking up because it. Anna Sandhu Ray said her husband has informed her that she would not get any profits from the planned book. Mrs. Ray, who spoke on the couple's 10th anniversary Thursday, said she plans to seek a divorce. "He agreed that that might be the best thing for me to do," Mrs. Ray said. Ray, 60, was sentenced to 99 years in prison in 1969 when he pleaded guilty to shooting the civil rights leader the year before in Memphis. Now in Brushy Mountain State Prison in east Tennessee, Ray has since repeatedly denied his guilt and sought a new trial. Mrs. Ray, 42, said Thursday she still believes her husband is innocent.

County upstages reluctant taxpayer

GEORGETOWN, Colorado (AP) — When Kenny Walters used 3,000 one-dollar bills to pay the county taxes on his tool-rental business, he thought his conscience was clear and the matter was closed. But County Treasurer Geraldine Thompson may have upstaged Walters. She returned his change of \$110 mostly in small coins. "I guess he was just trying to make a statement," said Thompson. "I just gave him all the change I could dish out. I mean, turnabout is fair play." Walters said he enjoyed Thompson's response to his "silent protest." He said he was trying to make a point when he paid his \$2,890 in taxes in person with an old gunpowder crate full of one-dollar bills. "I don't mind paying my property taxes," said Walters. "But sometimes they (county officials) have a tendency not to realise how much money they're taking from people."